



The Rivers Trust

Presented by: Jessie Leach – PMO Lead at The Rivers Trust

Date: October 31 2023

Our Member Trusts

We are the umbrella organisation for our 65 member Trusts in the UK and Ireland.

Each member Trust carries out fantastic work to help our rivers in their local area.



What we do!



Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo.)

Presented by Jessie Leach (CaSTCo Programme Manager, The Rivers Trust)



**Our river
catchments
are impacted
by too many
challenges**

To make them more resilient, we need:

A SINGLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION THAT IS...



Independent and robust



Easily accessible and widely shared



Open and transparent



Trusted by all



Collaborative in its approach

CaSTCo (Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative) provides the solution



£7.1m, 3-year project funded by the OFWAT Innovation Fund



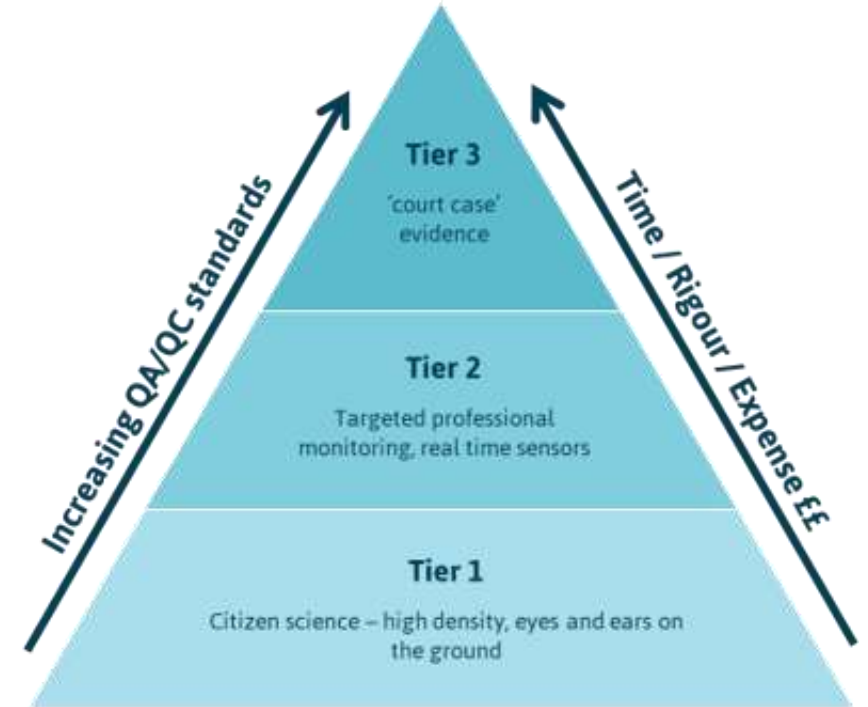
A highly collaborative project, bringing together 30+ partners (including 12 water companies)



Creating the first national, standardised catchment framework that integrates monitoring and data management → providing one single source of information



Improving trust, transparency, data sharing and collaboration across all actors in the catchment → a cooperative that brings people together!



CaSTCo Mission

What change do we want to see?

Communities are included in collecting and sharing catchment data so that we all have better understanding and achieve better management of our rivers and waterbodies.

Making sure that people count at the heart of rivers' recovery

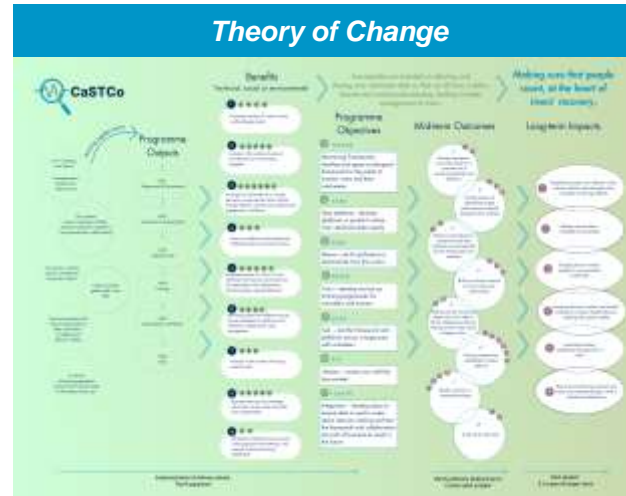


CaSTCo achievements so far

We are now **uniquely positioned**, following years of work and collaboration

30+ partners co-designing and co-owning framework

Built **momentum** with agile and innovative delivery – failing fast and learning faster



Who are we learning from globally?

Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative

"The CMC was formed in 2015 through a six-year cooperative agreement between the [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, to integrate community and volunteer monitoring data into the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. The CMC team was awarded a second cooperative agreement in 2021 to continue the partnership for another six years.

There have traditionally been many sources of data, including data collected by volunteers, local governments and NGO's, that were not being used at a broader scale to track bay and watershed health. The [CMC team](#) has established a tiered framework, monitoring protocols, and quality assurance procedures that enable all data of known quality to be used together across the region. These data are now available on a publicly accessible platform, the Chesapeake Data Explorer, and readily available for use at the state and federal levels."

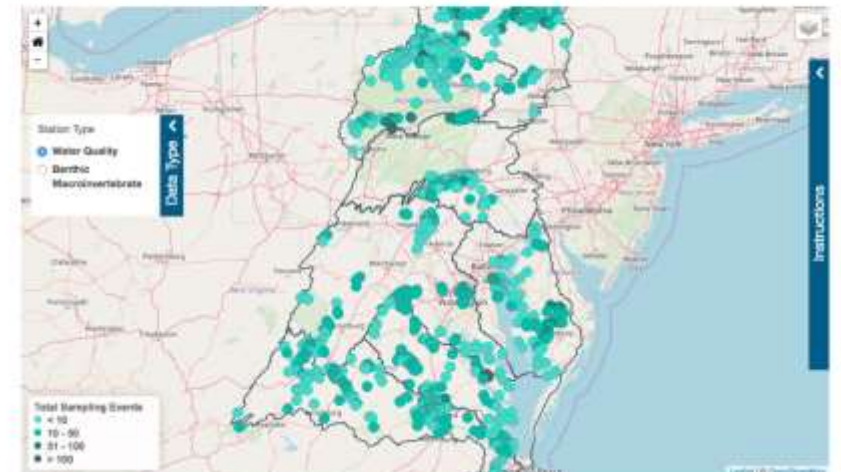
<https://www.chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org/about/>

Table 2. Priority objectives for volunteer and nontraditional data use identified by environmental agencies in the Chesapeake Bay watershed

| Monitoring Data Use/Need | State/Jurisdiction |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fill data gaps for Clean Water Act 305(b)/303(d) assessments | DE, DC, MD, NY, VA |
| Monitor restoration progress and conservation effectiveness or conduct impact assessment (pre- and post-implementation) | DE, DC, MD, NY, PA, WV |
| Stormwater MS4 monitoring | PA |
| Collect longitudinal data and monitor trends over time | MD, NY |
| Establish baseline water quality data (tidal) | DE, DC, MD, VA |
| Establish baseline water quality data (nontidal) | DE, DC, MD, PA, VA |
| Monitor the impacts of road salt (conductivity) | MD |
| Marcellus Shale natural gas and acid mine drainage mitigation | MD, PA |
| Determine if a TMDL is needed | MD |
| Higher frequency monitoring of impaired waters | DC, NY, VA |
| Promote stewardship and provide opportunities for community outreach and engagement | DE, DC, MD, NY, PA, VA, WV |
| Identify areas of high nutrient and sediment loading | NY, WV |
| Monitor areas undergoing change (i.e. development) | DC, WV |
| Climate change resiliency | NY, PA, VA, WV |
| Monitor the impacts of pipelines | PA, VA, WV |
| Monitor areas with high concentrations of agriculture | PA |
| Monitor presence of aquatic invasive species | MD |

The CMC Data Network

The Chesapeake Data Explorer is the gateway into data collected by the CMC network of monitors. Click the map to access our Data Explorer and explore the efforts of our monitoring community!



Who are we learning from globally?

Water Rangers

Request to join group
You must be accepted as a member, in order to make observations for this group.
[Request to join this group](#)








County Sustainability Group

Ecodon@explornet.com
[6134768016](tel:6134768016)
[Visit website](#)

1175 Observations
6 Issues
79 Locations

Leaderboard

-  **Don Ross**
10460 Points
-  **Heather Ross**
3870 Points
-  **Inga Chisholm**
1200 Points
-  **Deb Hudson**
1030 Points
-  **Jenna Ross**
350 Points

[View all members >](#)

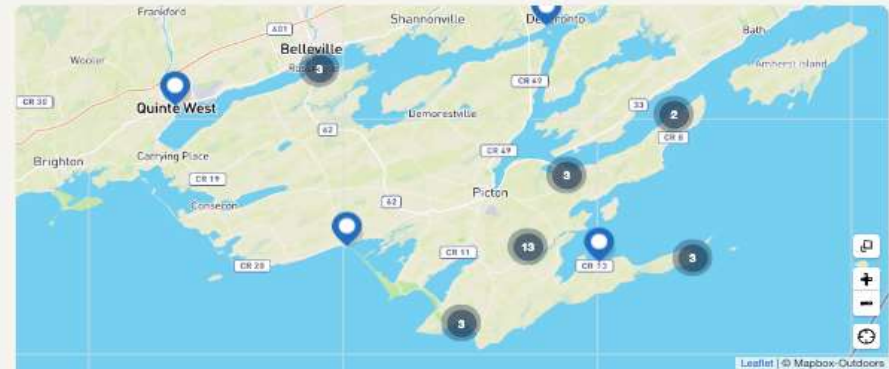
Overview **1175** Observations **6** Issues Members About

About

- ✓ This group uses the Water Rangers testkit and protocol [What's this?](#)
- ✓ Data from this group will be automatically shared with DataStream. [What's this?](#)
- [View County Sustainability Group's dataset on DataStream](#)

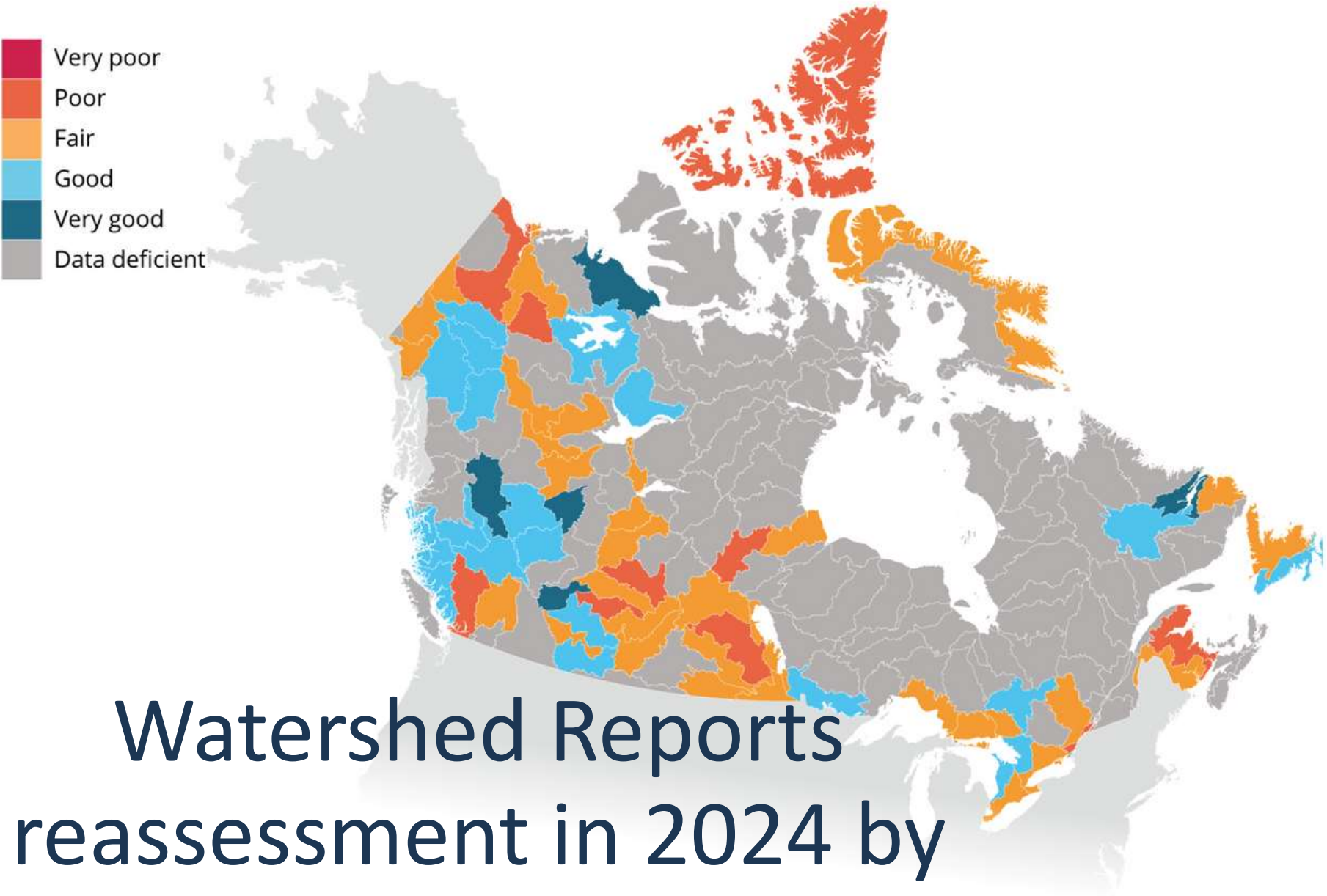
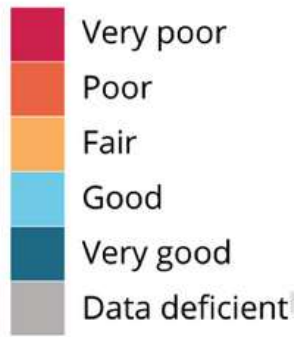
Caring and acting for the benefit of our present and future generations.

[Read more >](#)



Locations contributed to

| Date Range | Locations | Observations | Issues |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| May 19, 2017 - October 12, 2023 | St. John River : Hartland New Brunswick | 15 | 0 |
| May 15, 2018 - October 9, 2023 | Dug pond : Kan Centre Pond | 15 | 0 |
| May 10, 2022 - October 9, 2023 | Coldstream at Gilmore Rd and #580 corner : Coldstream near Hamilton Brook Junction | 3 | 0 |
| April 29, 2019 - October 8, 2023 | Un-named creek : Unknown creek flowing into Hamilton Brook | 8 | 0 |
| May 15, 2018 - October 7, 2023 | Pond on Jean Arnold's Property : Jean's Pond | 10 | 0 |
| April 13, 2019 - October 2, 2023 | Ottawa River : Ottawa River | 47 | 0 |



Watershed Reports reassessment in 2024 by Water Rangers

CastCo: Benefits and opportunities



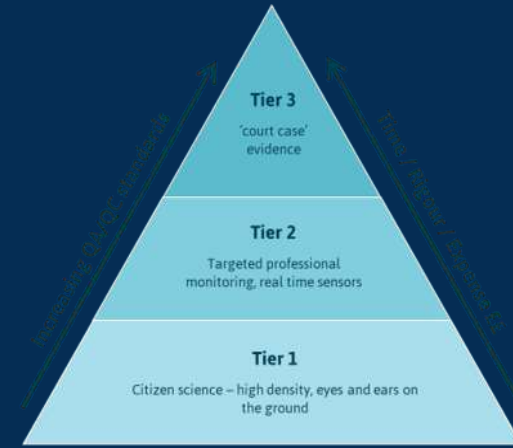
1. **Monitoring** – innovative, dynamic, cost effective
2. **Data** – holistic, standardised, high density
3. Robust evidence on **effectiveness of nature-based solutions**
4. Better **understanding** of the catchment system
5. **Early warning**: better decisions and timely, cost-effective, prioritised responses
6. Opportunities for **diverse funding**
7. **Social movement** and **behaviour change** – community involvement and transparency inspires public value of rivers and water
8. **Reputational benefits** – rebuild trust and increase confidence



Wildlife sightings

Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo)

Making sure that people count, at the heart of rivers' recovery



Integrated monitoring and joined-up data management



Environmental DNA

Q&A



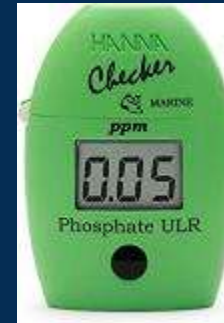
Litter surveys



River obstacles



Outfall monitoring



Water quality testing



Riverfly monitoring

